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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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and Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
20210

Week of July 11, 1988

IN THIS ISSUE:

MCLAUGHLIN ANNOUNCES OVER $2.1 MILLION
FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS IN 5 STATES

SECRETARY OF LABOR ANNOUNCES
OVER $5.4 MILLION FOR
DISLOCATED WORKERS IN 6 STATES

BLS REPORT ON EXPERIMENTAL REWEIGHTED
PRICE INDEX FOR OLDER PERSONS

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Week of July 11, 1988

MCLAUGHLIN ANNOUNCES OVER $2.1 MILLION
FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS IN 5 STATES

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Ann McLaughlin has announced a total of $2,157,000 in seven grant awards for dislocated workers in Massachusetts, Indiana, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Minnesota who are displaced due to plant closings and mass layoffs.

The funds are authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), and will provide dislocated workers with retraining and other supportive services to reenter the workforce.

"Under the JTPA program, these workers will be provided with the necessary training and assistance they need in order to return to the workforce," Secretary McLaughlin said.

The Massachusetts Industrial Services Program will receive $507,000 to assist 300 artillery shell manufacturing workers dislocated due to a 50 percent reduction in the operation of Chamberlain National in the City of New Bedford and Bedford County. The Chamberlain Workers Assistance Center will provide retraining through classroom or on-the-job training, remedial education, and English as a second language (ESL), job search assistance and job placement. Support services will include: day care and transportation allowances; food distribution; counseling; fuel assistance; relocation assistance; and, group support sessions. Participants will be informed of vocational rehabilitation services and veteran's benefits.

A second grant award for the Massachusetts Industrial Services Program, in the amount of $250,000, will assist 250 workers from the H. K. Porter and Domino sugar refinery operations displaced by plant closings. Customized training will be offered according to the individual needs of the applicants at the Emergency Worker Assistance Center in Charlestown. In addition, on-the-job training and classroom vocational training, remedial education, English as a second language (ESL), job search workshops, job development and placement will be provided. Support services available will include day care and transportation allowances. Food distribution, counseling, fuel assistance, food stamps information, group support sessions and workshops will be available through other community resources.

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The geographic areas affected are the cities of Boston, Somerville and Charleston and Middlesex and Suffolk counties.

Indiana Community and Family Services, Inc. will receive $400,000 to assist 211 dislocated glass manufacturing workers affected by plant closing and layoffs of Indiana Glass, Kerr Glass, Armstrong Mould and Anchor Glass Container Corporation. Assistance activities will focus on on-the-job training in demand occupations in the geographical area served by the project. The project will provide for job search assistance, occupational skills, classroom training, remedial education, GED preparation and supportive services on an individualized basis. The east central Indiana service delivery area (SDA) is affected, including the counties of Jay, Randolph, and Delaware, but will also serve affected workers in other SDA counties, including the cities of Hartford, Muncie, New Castle, Union City, Dunkirk, Portland and Winchester.

In addition, the Indiana Interlocal Association will receive $350,000 to assist 178 workers dislocated from mass layoffs at two Arvin Industries manufacturing facilities. The project will provide retraining to the target population principally through occupational skills classroom training and on-the-job training. Basic education training will be offered to participants who do not have basic education credentials. In addition, supportive services, which can include transportation, child care and medical services, will be provided on an individualized basis to allow for full participation in the training program. The geographic areas covered are the cities of Greenwood, Franklin and Shelbyville, and the counties of Johnson, Shelby, Morgan and Marion.

The Rhode Island Department of Economic Development, Division of Job Development and Training will receive $300,000 to assist 112 workers laid off due to the closings of six Health-Tex plants in Northern Rhode Island. Project participants will receive remedial education, job club workshops and vocational classroom training through a re-employment and counseling center located in Central Falls. The cities of Cranston, Cumberland and Central Falls and Providence County are the geographic areas covered under the program.

The Dakota County Job Training Office in Minnesota will receive $200,000 to assist 171 workers laid off from the Unisys Corporation's computer and semi-conductor operations. Participants will receive assessment, career and vocational counseling, job search skills training, job development, outreach and extensive placement assistance. Adult basic education/GED, and support services include: child care; transportation assistance; financial counseling; personal and family counseling. The project will fully coordinate with the company, union and local human services providers. The City of St. Paul Service Delivery Area (SDA) will provide these services to workers in the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Eagan Metropolitan Areas and in Dakota County.

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The Connecticut JTPA Administration will receive $150,000 to assist a target group of 100 dislocated brass parts manufacturing workers dislocated as a result of the closure of MRM Industries, Inc. The project will provide early intervention/pre-termination counseling, employability assessment, on-the-job training/retraining, classroom training, job search assistance, post-placement counseling, and high school diploma preparation training. The geographic area covered by these services is the City of Meriden, New Haven County.

The dislocated worker program aids workers who have been, or are about to be, laid off due to technological change, foreign competition or the permanent closing of a plant or facility. Training is also provided for workers who are unlikely to return to their previous industry or occupation, with little prospect for local employment or reemployment.

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Week of July 11, 1988

SECRETARY OF LABOR ANNOUNCES
OVER $5.4 MILLION FOR
DISLOCATED WORKERS IN 6 STATES

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Ann McLaughlin has announced $5,416,900 in ten grant awards to assist dislocated workers in Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina and North Dakota. Funds for the dislocated worker projects are authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

In announcing the grant awards, Secretary McLaughlin said, "The JTPA program is an invaluable tool to assist displaced workers. In addition to crucial retraining, it provides supportive services targeted to the specific needs of these workers."

The first of four grants for Wisconsin has been awarded to the A.O. Smith Re-Employment Assistance Program in the amount of $1,023,700 for 650 workers dislocated due to layoffs at the A.O. Smith Automotive Products Company of Milwaukee. Workers in the geographic areas of Milwaukee County and the Milwaukee metropolitan area will be able to take advantage of comprehensive job search assistance services and occupational skill training, intake/assessment, development of an employability plan, basic education, on-the-job training and classroom training as well as job search assistance workshops and counseling; relocation assistance, child care, transportation assistance and reemployment support services.

The second grant for Wisconsin has been awarded to the Milwaukee Area Technical College HIRE Program (Help in Re-Employment) with funds totalling $250,000 for 165 workers laid off from the industrial controls manufacturer, the Allen-Bradley Company, at its headquarters in Milwaukee, as a result of restructuring and product phase-out. Workers in the Milwaukee metropolitan area and Milwaukee County will be provided with intake/assessment, placement, remedial education, comprehensive job search assistance, retraining through on-the-job and classroom vocational training. Support services may include transportation and child care allowances, relocation assistance and referrals to counseling.

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The third grant for Wisconsin has been awarded to the Central Wisconsin Private Industry Council in the amount of $135,300 for 100 workers permanently laid off as a result of the closing of the C.W. Transport Trucking Company in Wisconsin Rapids. The cities of Stevens Point, Nekoosa, Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, and the counties of Wood and Portage are targeted geographic areas. Services provided under the project include outreach services, skills assessment, classroom vocational and on-the-job training, job search assistance, job clubs and job development/placement. Support services may include transportation reimbursement, child care, relocation assistance, personal and financial counseling.

The fourth Wisconsin grant has also been awarded to the Central Wisconsin Private Industry Council in the amount of $131,200 to assist 70 semi-skilled laminated plastic workers permanently laid off from the Sterling Engineered Products Corporation in the City of Wisconsin Rapids and in Wood County. Services provided are remedial education, outreach, assessment, job search assistance, on-the-job or vocational classroom training, with emphasis on occupational skills. Support services, such as child care and transportation assistance will be available.

The United Way of Central Iowa has been awarded $750,000 to assist 440 lawn and garden equipment manufacturing workers dislocated by the closing of the Western International plant in Des Moines. Workers in the counties of Polk, Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Story, and Warren can take advantage of classroom vocational skill training, on-the-job training, job search assistance, remedial and basic skills training and supportive services such as child care, transportation, health care and counseling.

A second grant awarded in Iowa will be administered by the Iowa Comprehensive Human Services Agency. The $300,000 in project funds will be used to assist 77 dislocated farmers and their families, including spouses and adult children, who has lost or will lose their farms. The project will provide for individualized assessment of training and support services needs, development of an employability plan, basic and remedial education, on-the-job or classroom vocational skill training, job search assistance and placement. Support services available will include child care and transportation reimbursement. The geographic areas covered to assist these dislocated workers are: Polk, Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Story and Warren Counties.

The Governor's Office of Job Training in Lansing, Michigan, has been awarded $250,000 to assist 81 dislocated workers interested in forming their own business. This demonstration project will be developed to provide entrepreneurial training at two sites. Classroom training and on-the-job training opportunities will be provided. The training services will be coordinated through the state network of the Community Growth Alliances, the Small Business Development Centers, the local economic development authorities and the Service Delivery Areas. The sites covering geographic areas served will be announced in the future.

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The Hennepin County Department of Training and Employment Assistance in Minnesota has been awarded $527,000 to assist 330 workers dislocated by mass layoffs occurring at Control Data Corporation in the Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan areas and Hennepin County. Project participants will receive orientation, assessment and employability development planning, on-the-job training, classroom vocational training or small business training, job development and placement services. Support services will include mileage reimbursement, personal and financial counseling and short-term child care arrangements.

The Employment Security Commission of North Carolina has been awarded $1,300,000 to assist 1,520 workers affected by layoffs due to the projected closing of the AT&T North Carolina Works in Winston-Salem. These workers can receive services in the following areas: employment and career counseling, classroom vocational training, basic skills upgrading, on-the-job training, job development, job search assistance and job placement. Supportive services will be available through referrals to community organizations that provide for health care, emergency aid, job interview - related expenses and relocation costs. The primary services will be provided at an Employee Assistance Center at the plant site that is staffed by company, union representatives and Employment Security Commission staff. The geographic areas covered are: Forsyth, Guilford, Davidson, Yadkin, Davie and Stokes Counties; and the Winston-Salem metropolitan area.

The Job Service of North Dakota has been awarded $750,000 to assist 288 long-term, unemployed building trades and construction workers in selected areas of the State to be announced in the future. The project will provide retraining to long-term unemployed construction workers who require retraining to update their skills and familiarity with new materials to obtain the necessary certifications and experience to remain in the construction industry.

The dislocated worker program aids workers who have been, or are about to be, laid off due to technological change, foreign competition or the permanent closing of a plant or facility. Training is also provided for workers who are unlikely to return to their previous industry or occupation, with little prospect for local employment or reemployment.

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Week of July 11, 1988

BLS REPORT ON EXPERIMENTAL REWEIGHTED
PRICE INDEX FOR OLDER PERSONS

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has reported to Congress on an experimental price index reweighted to represent the expenditure experience of Americans 62 and older. The study had been required by the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1987.

In some of the years of the study, the experimental measure rose more than the Bureau's two official consumer price indexes. Over the 5 years covered by the study--December 1982 to December 1987--the experimental index rose 19.5 percent; this compares with increases of 18.2 percent in the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and 16.5 percent in the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) over the same period.

Commissioner of Labor Statistics Janet L. Norwood cautioned against use of the experimental index for pension and other adjustments, pointing out that the reweighting carried out in the study was only a first approximation of an index for older Americans. The Bureau said that a Consumer Price Index for Older Americans reliable enough for such use--in place of either the CPI-U or the CPI-W--would require both (1) a larger sample of older American households in the expenditure survey upon which the reweighting was based and (2) new samples of market basket items, stores and prices to represent the things bought by older Americans.

The BLS report advised the Congress that if an improved index were desired, work should begin with a comprehensive reexamination of the medical care component. Older Americans have different illnesses, buy different drugs, have different insurance experience, and frequently see different medical specialists from the younger population.

The Bureau cautioned that care should be taken in analyzing the results of the experimental index since it is subject to considerably larger sampling errors than either of the two official measures.

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Week of July 11, 1988

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The first labor organization was formed in 1648 by the Boston shoemakers and coopers (barrel makers) guilds. Partly because local artisans argued that the guilds hindered free trade, their three-year charters were not renewed, according to "Labor Firsts in America," a U.S. Labor Department publication.

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The first women's labor organization was established in 1734 by maid servants in New York City to protest the abuses they suffered from their mistresses' husbands, according to "Labor Firsts in America," a U.S. Labor Department publication.

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The first permanent workers organization began in 1792 with the Philadelphia cordwainers. The group lasted less than a year but reappeared in 1794, existing until 1806, according to "Labor Firsts in America," a U.S. Labor Department publication.

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In 1825, the first women's labor organization in a trade was formed. The United Tailoresses Society of New York later that year conducted the first strike by a women's labor organization, according to "Labor Firsts in America," a U.S. Labor Department publication.